

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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Date Issued: June 27, 2013  
Time: 10:30 a.m.

### **SUBSISTENCE SALMON FISHING OPENS TO BEACH SEINES JULY 1 IN UNALAKLET AND SHAKTOOLIK SUBDISTRICTS**

Subsistence fishermen in the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts report strong early catches of chum salmon in the marine waters. Brief commercial openings directed on chum salmon could occur in the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts as early July 1. Initial periods will be brief to minimize incidental harvests of Chinook salmon and index early chum salmon run strength. Latest cumulative escapement counts are 108 pink salmon at North River and 3 Chinook, 255 chum, and 23 pink salmon at Unalakleet River weir.

Effective July 1, subsistence salmon fishing in all fresh and marine waters of the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts will open to the use of beach seines 24 hours a day, seven days a week to target salmon other than Chinook salmon. The Alaska Board of Fisheries passed two new regulations in 2013: one requires that beach seines in the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts have a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or less; the other prohibits the retention of any Chinook salmon captured in beach seine gear. Chinook salmon incidentally captured in beach seines must be immediately released unharmed back into the water. Subsistence fishing schedules and gear restrictions for the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts also remain in effect and are as follows:

***Shaktoolik Subdistrict marine waters:*** Subsistence salmon fishing is restricted to set gillnets with a mesh size of 6 inches or less and periods are from 6 p.m. Mondays to 6 p.m. Wednesdays and from 6 p.m. Thursdays to 6 p.m. Saturdays.

***Shaktoolik River:*** Subsistence salmon fishing is allowed 24 hours a day, seven days a week with set gillnets, but set gillnets must have a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or less.

***Unalakleet Subdistrict marine waters:*** Set gillnets with any mesh size may be used and periods are from 6 p.m. Mondays to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and from 6 p.m. Fridays to 6 p.m. Saturdays.

***Unalakleet River:*** Subsistence salmon fishing with gillnets is restricted to set gillnets with a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or less and periods are from 8:00 a.m. Mondays to 8:00 p.m. Tuesdays, and from 8:00 a.m. Fridays to 8:00 p.m. Saturdays.

For any questions please contact Fish & Game in Nome at 443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271, or the Unalakleet Fish & Game field office at 624-3921. Good luck, good fishing and be safe.